

REMARKS

In the final Office Action mailed August 10, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,035,526 to Saruta et al. ("Saruta"); and rejected claims 10-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Saruta and U.S. Patent No. 5,926,161 to Furuhashi ("Furuhashi"). In the Advisory Action mailed November 29, 2005, the Examiner entered the proposed amendment filed November 9, 2005, and indicated claims 5-17 as being allowable¹, but indicated that claims 1-4 remain rejected.

Although Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's characterization of claims 1-4 and 16, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant proposes canceling claims 1-4, and 16. Upon entry of the claim amendments, claims 5-15 and 17 will remain pending.

Because the Examiner indicated claims 5-15 and 17 as being allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that the proposed amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner. In view of the above amendments and remarks, the pending claims are allowable over the cited references. The prompt allowance of claims 5-15, and 17 is earnestly solicited so that this application may be passed to issue.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ In a conversation with the Examiner on December 9, 2005, the Examiner indicated that the allowance of claim 16 was a mistake. The Examiner further indicated that claim 16 would be rejected due to its dependence on rejected claim 1.